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and length of service of those who served in the army, navy, or marine corps of the United States in the war of the Rebellion, and who are survivors and the widows of soldiers, sailors, or marines; also that the population schedules shall include an inquiry as to the number of negroes, mulattoes, quadroons, and octoroons. There shall be published the statistics of the population, industry, and resources of the district of Alaska. There shall be collected the statistics relating to the collected indebtedness of private corporations and individuals, and also information relating to animals not on farms. The only volumes that shall be prepared shall relate to population and social statistics relating thereto, the products of manufactories, mining, and agriculture, mortality, and vital statistics, valuation and public indebtedness, recorded indebtedness and to statistics relating to railroad corporations, incorporated express, telegraph and insurance companies, a list of the names, organization, and length of service of surviving soldiers, sailors, and marines, and the widows of soldiers, sailors, and marines.

SEC. 18. That mortality statistics may be obtained in cities or states from local authorities; that manufacturing, mining, and social statistics may be collected by experts, as also the statistics of fishing, cattle, insurance, and transportation industries. That the special agents shall in no case be compensated more than \$6 a day.

SEC. 19. That the enumeration shall be complete on or before the first day of July, and in any city having over 10,000 inhabitants under the census of 1880, the enumeration shall be taken within two weeks of the first Monday of June. That the sum of \$6,400,000 be the maximum cost of the Census, exclusive of printing, engraving, and binding.

SEC. 23. That population statistics shall be furnished to municipal governments upon application, to be paid for at the rate of twenty-five cents for each hundred names.

## CENSUS OF DEAF-MUTES.

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An interesting report on the defective classes of the United States was recently made to the Census Committee of the United States Senate by Prof. A. Graham Bell. From Prof. Bell's report, published in full in *Science*, Jan. 18, 1889, the following abstract has been condensed:

According to the Census returns the defective classes have increased 400 per cent in three years, while the general population of the country has simply doubled. When the whole population of the United States is classified according to age in 1880, the proportion of deaf-mutes among the younger persons is seen to be greater than among the older. Classification of the deaf-mutes according to their age, in 1880, shows that there has been an enormous increase in recent years in numbers of the non-congenitally deaf; but this, Prof. Bell thinks, need hardly be considered as a permanent condition, for it appears to be due to an epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis, which will probably die away as former epidemics have done.

The following table shows the percentage of the whole population of the United States, born at each decade, and also the percentage of the congenitally deaf population:

Period of Birth.	Total Population Living in 1880.	Congenital Deaf-Mutes Living in 1880.	Percentage of the whole Population Living in 1880.	Percentage of Congenitally Deaf Population Living in 1880.
Before 1780 ..	4,016	..	0.0080	...
1781-90. ....	20,863	9	0.0416	0.074
1791-1800. ....	196,197	63	0.3912	0.518
1801-10. ....	776,507	241	1.5482	1.983
1811-20. ....	1,830,095	472	3.6488	3.883
1821-30. ....	3,111,317	751	6.2033	6.179
1831-40. ....	4,558,256	1,078	9.0882	8.870
1841-50. ....	6,369,362	1,614	12.6992	13.280
1851-60. ....	9,168,393	2,460	18.2798	20.240
1861-70. ....	10,726,601	3,398	21.3866	27.958
1871-80. ....	13,394,176	2,068	26.7051	17.015
Total. ....	50,155,873	12,154	100.0000	100.000

The indications are that the congenital deaf-mutes of the country are increasing at a greater rate than the general population. Prof. Bell states that the facts in his possession show that intermarriage between deaf-mutes began in the year 1819, and that the percentage of these intermarriages has grown continuously, until at present about 90 per cent of all such unfortunates wed with those who are similarly affected. Prof. Bell's statistics include 1443 cases in which deaf-mutes have married. In 71 of these marriages the deaf-mutes were wedded to persons of ordinary hearing power, and 1372, or 95 per cent, of the marriages were between deaf-mutes.

By a calculation from statistics in his own possession, Prof. Bell obtains the following result: *first*, one person in every 1480 of the general population was deaf and dumb, and one person in every 64 of the deaf-mute population was a child of deaf-mute parents; *second*, one person in every 2736 of the general population was deaf from

birth, and one person in every 38 of the congenitally deaf population was a child of deaf-mute parents. Prof. Bell makes many suggestions for the securing of a more accurate census in 1890, and the conclusion of his report states that, in examining the ancestry of deaf-mutes, he has had occasion to consult the original population schedules of former censuses, which are preserved in the Department of the Interior; and he has found little difficulty in tracing the families backward from census to census in the male line of ascent. If the name of the father had been given in former censuses, it might now be possible for genealogical experts to trace from these records the American ancestry of every person now living in the United States in every branch, for the name of the father would give the maiden name of females. He therefore suggests that in the census of 1890 the father's name should be noted in that part of the schedule that relates to the nativity of the parents, so that the people of the United States may leave to their descendants genealogical records from which their full ancestry may at any future time be ascertained.

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#### THE EXTENSION OF THE METRIC SYSTEM.

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The question whether the employment of the Metric System is growing or not was recently discussed in a note presented to the Academie des Sciences, by M. de Malace. An abstract of this appears in *l'Economiste Français*, Feb. 23, 1889.

M. de Malace begins by stating that, in 1887, the states where the decimal metric system is obligatory comprise a population of 302 millions inhabitants,—an increase of 53 millions since 1877. The states where the metric system is authorized by law as optional (England, certain British colonies, Canada, the United States) comprise 96.9 millions of inhabitants, an increase of 19 millions since 1877; and the states where the metric system is legally admitted in principle, or partially applied, as in the customs (Russia, Turkey, British India), comprise a population of 395 millions, an increase of 54 millions since 1877.

The metric system is thus legally recognized throughout the civilized world by 794 millions of people, an increase of 126 millions since 1877. These 794 millions represent 60.6 per cent of the population of the civilized world,—that is to say, of countries which have a census or an official enumeration of the population. These latter